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University of Northern Iowa Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes, December 10, 1990

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FACULTY SENATE

December 10, 1990

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Comments from Provost Marlin.
2. The Chair announced the awarding of Professor Emeritus status to James Albrecht, Department of Educational Administration and Counseling.
3. General Education Implementation Reality Statement from Senator John Longnecker. See Appendix A.

CALENDAR

4. 504 Joint Recommendation to Establish a Regents' Award for Faculty Excellence. Docketed for consideration at today's meeting. Docket 439. See Appendix B and B revised.

NEW/OLD BUSINESS

5. Comments and Inquiries from Senator Crownfield.

DOCKET

6. 405 439 Joint Recommendation to Establish a Regents' Award for Faculty Excellence. See Appendix B and B revised. Approved as amended.

The Faculty Senate was called to order at 3:30 p.m., in the Board Room of Gilchrist Hall, by Chairperson Longnecker.

Present: Phyllis Conklin, David Crownfield, Robert Decker, David Duncan, Reginald Green, Bill Henderson, Roger Kueter, John Longnecker, Ken McCormick, Charles Quirk, Ernest Raiklin, Erwin Richter, Ron Roberts, Nick Teig, Patrick Wilkinson, Marc Yoder, ex officio

Alternates: Mary Bozik/Barbara Lounsberry

Absent: Leander Brown

Announcements

1. Comments from Provost Marlin.

Provost Marlin stated the Governor's budget hearing meeting held last week was viewed as having gone very well for UNI. She stated that President Curris was particularly effective in making a strong case for our needs to fund enrollment growth and for the proposed Wellness/Recreation Building.

She stated the Board of Regents will meet December 19 and 20 in Iowa City. Part of the discussion will include the college planning documents which have been previously submitted and revised. A complete set of these documents is on reserve in the Library. At this Board meeting we will be requesting authority to hire an architect to design a new residence facility. This facility will be more flexible and based on apartment-type living arrangements. This facility will be designed for students as well as interim and visiting faculty.

Provost Marlin distributed the Environmental Assessment document as submitted by the Strategic Planning Committee. A copy of this document will be on reserve in the Library.

Provost Marlin has mailed to the Senate a draft of the procedures for academic program reviews and a draft for teaching and service faculty awards. She requested any comments or concerns be submitted by December 21.

She expressed her desire to initiate the competition for computer equipment in the near future. This year's competition will have two parts: 1) to provide individuals with their first machine; and 2) to provide upgrades to individuals who had previously obtained a computer.

Provost Marlin indicated that due to limited funds within departments and colleges, she had transferred money to the deans to help departments with their staff recruiting costs.

She stated she was surprised with the low number of applications submitted for the PDL competition. She inquired of senators if they are aware of any impediments to this process. Senator Teig stated the number of applications tends to follow a circular pattern with previous history of a minimum of 21 applications and a high in the mid-40s.

Senator Conklin inquired if an individual could resubmit a proposal which has been previously denied. Provost Marlin responded in the affirmative, stating the committee

provides the applicant with feedback so the proposal can be revised and resubmitted.

Senator Duncan suggested the mini-grants may replace people applying for PDLs. Provost Marlin stated she will continue the mini-grant program but some restructuring is likely to occur.

Senator Quirk inquired about the value of the academic program reviews. Provost Marlin stated these reviews will be used and they are significantly better than the documents completed for Peat Marwick. The Chair also suggested student outcomes assessments may be tied to academic program reviews to create a more complete evaluation instrument.

2. The Chair announced the awarding of Professor Emeritus status to James Albrecht, Department of Educational Administration and Counseling.

3. The General Education Implementation Reality Statement from Senator John Longnecker. See Appendix A.

Senator Longnecker stated he had been concerned with the different perceptions on the implementation of the General Education program that he was hearing from members of the faculty. He stated that he decided to put down what he thought he knew about the implementation and asked for responses from Provost Marlin, who stated his view was correct with the exception of the summer session budget, which is a separate entity.

Senator Quirk inquired if the General Education program implementation was a priority or the top priority. Senator Longnecker responded he intended to convey that it was within the top two or three priorities. Provost Marlin stated she believed it has been the top academic priority since she has been here, but that as a result there are many legitimate needs--particularly in majors--that have not been funded. She cannot allow the situation to continue for much longer.

Senator Crownfield pointed out we were encouraged to plan a General Education program without concern for tradeoffs or impact. He stated it was not the intention of the faculty for the General Education program to have as great an impact as it is. He stated at the point we cannot get resources for General Education, then we must decide what we are going to stop doing. He suggested we must participate early in this process rather than doing triage later. Chairperson Longnecker estimated we are generating approximately 120,000 credit hours each year in General Education. [Note: For the 1989 academic full year, 297,215 total undergraduate credit hours were generated.]

Senator Crownfield, questioning the delivery section, pointed out it says General Education is a product to be delivered instead of the original concept of learning.

Senator Henderson stated he was concerned with the synopsis as a projection of a reality statement. He suggested the University is not a fixed-space object. Chairperson Longnecker stated he was expressing a percentage of impact caused by the General Education program.

Senator Duncan noted the document makes use of the future tense. He inquired if this reflects what is happening, what will happen, or what will continue to happen and received a positive response on each. Senator Crownfield stated we cannot minimally fund General Education and say we have completed our task. He pointed out we must keep our promises and have faculty input on the decisions that must be made now. Senator Henderson stated this is Senator Longnecker's perspective on delivery systems and the synopsis. Senator Henderson stated he wanted the Senate position on full funding to stand as the Senate's position in this matter.

Senator Crownfield suggested this document should be viewed as a communication from one Senator to the Senate.

Calendar

4. 504 Joint Recommendation to Establish a Regents' Award for Faculty Excellence. See Appendix B and B revised.

Henderson moved, Bozik seconded, to docket for consideration at today's meeting. Motion passed. Docket 439.

New/Old Business

5. Comments and Inquiries from Senator Crownfield.

Senator Crownfield lamented on the lack of a clearly articulated inclement weather policy. He stated it is left up for individual faculty members to cancel their own classes. The problem with this policy is that it is impossible to communicate with students as to which classes are being held and which are not. He suggested the University should develop a way of communicating easily and early to all affected parties.

His second concern was with the formulation of the University academic calendar. He stated the biggest problem is with the due date of grades. He pointed out the calendar of events says January 2, while final grade sheets and a reminder notice from the Registrar's office indicate grades are due on December 28. He stated he is troubled with the semester ending so close to the holidays and that the faculty are required to work over the holidays to submit their grades.

Registrar Leahy stated grades are due on the third working day after finals. This policy was approved several years ago by the Faculty Senate. December 28 is a

working day even though some offices will be closed because of the winter shutdown. Registrar Leahy indicated personnel in the Registrar's office will be working on grades during this shutdown period. He also pointed out the Spring semester starts a week earlier this year, and that to delay submission of grades would make it very difficult to communicate suspension actions to affected students before the beginning of the Spring semester. Senator Crownfield stated nobody asked us how long it takes to do the job of evaluation. He stated that the grading process vs. processing grades must drive the system.

Registrar Leahy noted faculty members may drop off their grades at the UNI Credit Union during the time period University offices may not be open.

Senator Quirk indicated some of his colleagues are not pleased with commencement being held on December 22. He inquired if commencement could be held prior to finals week. Registrar Leahy stated the Faculty and student body have overwhelmingly indicated that commencement exercises must be held after finals week. He pointed out we were strongly criticized on the occasions when commencement exercises were held before finals. He stated the guidelines for the scheduling of commencement exercises, as approved by the Faculty Senate, states the last possible date commencement exercises may be held in the fall semester is December 22, which is occurring this year.

Docket

6. Joint Recommendation to Establish a Regents' Award for Faculty Excellence. See Appendix B and B revised.

Senator Crownfield inquired if the policy sets a specific number of awards to be given. The Chair responded the intention is for six awards to be given each year.

The Senate made the following editorial changes to the document. In the title, delete the word "a," add an apostrophe after the "s" in "Regents," and add an "s" to the word "Award."

In the third paragraph, add an "s" to the two appearances of the word "award."

In the sixth paragraph, last line, replace the word "who" with "whom."

Question on the motion was called. The motion to approve Docket Item 439 was passed.

The Chair ruled there being no further business, the Senate stood adjourned. The Senate adjourned at 4:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip L. Patton
Secretary

These minutes shall stand approved as published unless corrections or protests are filed with the Secretary of the Senate within two weeks of this date, December 14, 1990.

General Education Implementation Reality Statement
by

John C. Longnecker, UNI Faculty Senate Chair, December 6, 1990

There seems to be a difference between what some faculty thought would occur in the implementation of the new General Education program and what the evolved current reality is; it would seem wise to inform the Senate, and thereby the faculty at large, just what some of those current realities are as the new program is continuing in its implementation.

Much (most ?) of the evolution revolves about funding or the lack thereof. UNI's funding for staff was not sufficient for the 11,500 or so students that we expected, let alone the 12,600+ who are here. We knew we had a good, solid reputation but had no idea just how attractive UNI had become in the eyes of the State of Iowa students.

The following is a compilation of realities the Senate Chair has culled from conversations, statements made by informed individuals in Senate meetings and further clarifications by our Provost. This is neither a complete listing nor are the categories separate and distinct; these are the interdependent categories about which the Chair has the most knowledge.

Priority - Because of Faculty adoption, General Education is viewed as a top priority program.

Majors - Major/minor courses may need to be offered less frequently or with fewer sections in order to accommodate the teaching of General Education courses within a department.

Staff - As lines are allotted to a staff because of General Education courses, it is expected that corresponding additional sections of General Education courses would be taught by that staff as a result. If a department or unit does not expect the new staff member to teach General Education full-time, then the "old" staff needs to fill in. If a department felt the need for x number of additional lines in order to teach the additional load due to General Education, they may be allotted x-k lines with the expectation that the remaining k would be covered by the existing staff or temporary/lecturers.

Delivery Systems - In order to fully implement the current program, different and/or innovative methods may need to be instituted in order for fewer staff to handle more students in General Education.

Summer - The budget for the summer session is fixed and funding for summer session is not shifted to a semester. Consequently, summer offerings are independent of General Education offerings during the semesters. Summer offerings will be determined much as they have in the past.

Synopsis - If the University is considered as a fixed-space object, then more of the space will be occupied by General Education and less by other programs.

Proposal to Establish a Regents Award for Faculty Excellence

[This proposal was developed jointly by the Faculty Senates of the three Regents institutions]

The Faculty Senates would like to commend the Board of Regents for the faculty recognition dinner which they plan to sponsor in December 1990. We recommend that a formal program for recognition of faculty excellence become an annual event.

University faculty members, while often recognized by their immediate and profession wide peers have, prior to the 1990 dinner, seldom been afforded a state-wide forum in which their excellence was acknowledged and honored by the Board of Regents and shared by colleagues from other Regents' institutions.

We suggest that this award be entitled the Regents' Award for Faculty Excellence.

This recognition will be given to individuals who are deemed to have a sustained record of excellence across the spectrum of faculty endeavors (teaching, scholarship, service) or such outstanding accomplishments in one or more of the areas as to justify their selection.

Selection processes will be established on each campus and will include nomination processes and selection procedures. As is customary for faculty award programs, it is expected that faculty would have substantial involvement in the development and implementation of these procedures.

In conjunction with this award program, it is suggested that the Board of Regents may wish to establish a Regents' lecture series. This lecture series would allow audiences around the state to meet some of the faculty who the Regents have honored with this award.

where

Procedures

1. At each institution, the Faculty Senate and the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs will appoint an ad hoc committee which will establish the nomination and selection procedures on each campus.
2. Nominees will be solicited from the University community through the Deans and DEOs of the various colleges.
3. An awards committee composed of faculty, DEOs, and representatives from the ranks of the Deans and the Office of Academic Affairs will recommend candidates to the Faculty Senate Executive Board (ISU), Faculty Council (UI), or Faculty Senate (UNI).
4. Those selected by the Faculty Senate Executive Board (ISU), Faculty Council (UI), or Faculty Senate (UNI) will be submitted to the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs for her/his concurrence.
5. The selected nominees will then be affirmed by the Board of Regents.

11/30/90

Proposal to Establish ~~X~~ Regents' Award^S for Faculty Excellence

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